



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON CHILD PROTECTION
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 381B
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**

Thursday, September 12, 2013

1:30 PM

AUDIO LINK FOR ENTIRE MEETING. (13-4407)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)
[VIDEO - PART 1](#)
[VIDEO - PART 2](#)

Present: Chair David Sanders, Vice Chair Leslie Gilbert-Lurie, Vice Chair Hon. Dickran M. Tevrizian (ret.), Commissioner Gabriella Holt, Commissioner Marilyn L. Flynn, Commissioner Richard Martinez, Commissioner Andrea L. Rich, Commissioner Dan Scott and Commissioner Janet Teague. Commissioner Hon. Terry B. Friedman (ret.) was not present during roll call.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order. (13-4018)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sanders at 1:35 p.m.

2. Approval of the August 9, 2013 meeting minutes. (13-4019)

On motion of Vice Chair Tevrizian, seconded by Commissioner Scott, and unanimously carried (Commissioner Friedman being absent), this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. PRESENTATIONS

3. Presentations by Los Angeles County agencies:
Department of Children and Family Services - Fesia Davenport
Department of Mental Health - Dr. Bryan Mershon
District Attorney's Office - Susan Steinfeld (13-4015)

Members of the public, Patrick O'Rourke, Arnold Sachs and Teresija Sigmund, addressed the Commission.

Fesia Davenport, Deputy Director, Department of Children and Family Services, responded to questions submitted by the Commission relating to the Departments' goals in improving child safety.

Dr. Bryan Mershon, Deputy Director of Children's System of Care, Department of Mental Health, and Greg Lecklitner, District Chief, Child Welfare Division of the Department of Mental Health, responded to questions submitted by the Commission relating to the efforts made by the Department to improve child safety.

The presentation by District Attorney's Office was tabled.

Later in the meeting, Susan Steinfeld, Assistant Head Deputy, District Attorney's Office, provided a presentation on E-SCARS (Electronic Suspected Child Abuse Reporting System) and responded to questions posed by the Commission regarding best practices.

After discussion, the presenters were asked to submit a list of impediments that interfere with their ability to put child protection at the forefront. On motion of Vice Chair Tevrizian, seconded by Commissioner Scott, and unanimously carried, the presentations were received and filed.

III. DISCUSSIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

- 4. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Commission's mandate, including scope of work and goals (Continued from meeting of 8/9/13). (13-3705)**

Members of the public, Patrick O'Rourke, Arnold Sachs and Teresija Sigmund, addressed the Commission.

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Rich, seconded by Commissioner Flynn, and unanimously carried (Commissioner Friedman being absent), this item was approved as amended by the Commission.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

- 5. Discuss and take appropriate action on the roles, duties, and positions of the Executive Director and General Counsel (Continued from meeting of 8/9/13). (13-3706)**

Member of the public, Teresija Sigmund, addressed the Commission.

On motion of Vice Chair Tevrizian, seconded by Commissioner Holt, and unanimously carried (Commissioner Friedman being absent), the Commission approved Brian O'Neill as the General Counsel.

6. Discuss and take appropriate action on the presentation by Emily Putnam Hornstein on California and Los Angeles data and research on child fatalities and serious injuries due to abuse or neglect. (13-4210)

Members of the public, Lori Martin, Denise Paz, Patrick O'Rourke, Arnold Sachs, and Teresija Sigmund, addressed the Commission.

Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Ph.D., University of Southern California (USC) School of Social Work, provided a presentation on child fatalities and serious injuries due to abuse or neglect entitled, "An Examination of State and Local Data" and responded to questions posed by the Commission.

After discussion, on motion of Vice Chair Tevrizian, seconded by Commissioner Scott, and unanimously carried, the presentation was received and filed.

7. Report on Commission assignments and subcommittees:
Department of Children and Family Services and Law Enforcement First Responder Policy and Practice - Commissioner Scott
Interviews of Frontline Practitioners - Commissioner Flynn
Review of Previous Recommendations - Commissioner Holt
Interviews of Clients - Commissioner Teague (13-4211)

Members of the public, Dr. Matthew Harris and Arnold Sachs addressed the Commission.

Commissioner Scott provided an overview on law enforcement and the Department of Children and Families' first responders and how they deal with allegations of child abuse.

Commissioner Flynn provided an overview on the status of interviews conducted to date with frontline service providers within all Supervisorial Districts.

Commissioner Holt provided an overview on the research of previous recommendations and obstacles that prevent sharing of critical information that is required to provide services to children.

Commissioner Teague provided a status report on the methods that will be used to conduct interviews consisting of focus groups, advisory groups and one-on-one interviews.

After discussion, on motion of Vice Chair Tevrizian, seconded by Commissioner Scott, and unanimously carried, this item was received and filed.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

8. Items not on the posted agenda, to be presented and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Commission subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-4021)

There were no items presented.

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-4022)

Members of the public, Kevin Ferguson, Lori Martin, Denise Paz, Patrick O'Rourke, Arnold Sachs, Dermot Givens, and Sylvia Fogelmon, addressed the Commission.

10. Adjournment. (13-4023)

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.